

Galveston Bay National Estuary Program
EPA/State Management
Conference Agreement
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GALVESTON BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

EPA/STATE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AGREEMENT

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Galveston Bay

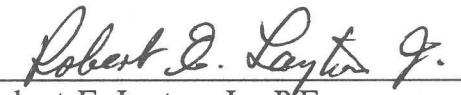
State/EPA Conference Agreement for National Estuary Program Designation Under the Water Quality Act of 1987

We recognize the need for a Management Conference on Galveston Bay to better define the environmental concerns in the system; to address the extent, complexity and sources of pollutants; and to develop a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for action. We further recognize that the State and EPA share the responsibility for management decisions and resources regarding priority issues in the system.

In signing this agreement, we are committing to products and schedules which will: assess trends in water quality, natural resources and uses; determine the causes of change through data collection, characterization, and analysis; evaluate point and nonpoint loadings and relate them to observed changes; write a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan which includes recommendations for priority actions; develop plans to coordinate implementation of a comprehensive plan with federal, state and local agencies; provide monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the implementation actions; and review federal financial assistance programs and federal development projects for consistency.

We also agree that the statutory requirements for Management Conference membership have been met and that we will participate in that conference. Further, we commit that the statutory requirements for matching funds will be met to complete the characterization of priority problems and develop the comprehensive conservation and management plan.


B.J. Wynne, III
Chairman
Texas Water Commission


Robert E. Layton, Jr., P.E.
Regional Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6

PREFACE

The National Estuary Program (NEP) was established by the Water Quality Act of 1987. The Act authorizes the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to convene Management Conferences to develop Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans (CCMPs) for estuaries of national significance that are threatened by pollution, development, or overuse. Section 320 of the Act outlines the estuary designation process and the purposes of a management conference.

The justification for convening a Galveston Bay Management Conference was specifically recognized by Congress prior to passage of the Act, and was further established by the Governor's Supplemental Nomination of May 1988. A cooperative agreement between Texas and the U.S. EPA was signed in October 1988, enabling initial developmental work to begin on the Galveston Bay National Estuary Program (hereafter referred to as GBNEP, composed of the conference membership, the EPA Region VI program staff, and the State Program Office).

This document is the resulting commitment of the GBNEP to begin working to improve water quality and enhance living resources in Galveston Bay. As an agreement, it represents State commitments for what work will be accomplished, as negotiated among the EPA Region VI, the Office of Marine and Estuarine Protection (OMEP), and the State Program Office, and as approved by the Management Conference and EPA headquarters. As a workplan, the activities specified here compose an overall road map for the project, an overview and schedule for work culminating in a CCMP by September 1994.

As work toward maintaining and enhancing Galveston Bay commences, specific activities will be committed to in annual workplans, and reports of accomplishments will be put forth in quarterly and annual reports, and in a newsletter and other publications for the public. Throughout the process, extensive involvement will be sought from the numerous groups, industries, organizations, and individuals with interests in Galveston Bay.

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